

Tri County JSEC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2008

Present: Cal Boyle, Marilyn Ohman, Shirley Cortright, Jackie Bonney, Kerry Bruner, and Richard Montz.

Introductions: Staff and Members were introduced.

Minutes: Minutes from the last meeting of August 28, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurers Report: Current balance in the checking account is still \$1365.45. Shirley and Cal provided some history of how the funds were earned such as the HAZMAT Classes that were offered years ago and seminars/training in Human Resource related areas that have been provided with a nominal charge. The funds have been used in the past to support these seminars as well as for the scholarships that we use to award annually to one individual in each of the Tri-County areas (Deer Lodge, Powell and Granite counties).

Job Service Overview/Update: Marilyn Ohman updated us on Job Service and how we became a certified One-Stop Center. Tri County Community Management Team meets quarterly and covers Anaconda, Deer Lodge, and Philipsburg. Discussed dislocated worker and Adult programs and what they cover as well as the TAA Petition that was filed on behalf of Sun Mountain Lumber employees. Hope to hear outcome of TAA Petition sometime the week of November 24th.

Explained and discussed the Montana Works system and how it works and that it feeds into a Nationwide System. Richard asked about the possibility of linking our system to Career Builder or Monster because when he was searching for work he didn't have any luck finding anything on either the Career Builder or Monster site that were for Montana.

Kerry discussed how the selection process and interviewing works for the Montana State Prison. Indicated that individuals really need to complete the State Application with the qualifications they possess so they aren't screened out, also the need to be able to talk/participate in a behavioral based interview.

ProveIT Testing was discussed as well as the over 900 different assessment areas that are offered. Testing can be used as part of way to screen/determine skills applicants possess for the positions that they are recruiting for. Shirley will email everyone an attachment that has the list of the skills/tests that are offered.

BEAR Program – Marilyn provided overview of the BEAR (Business Expansion & Retention) Program. Statewide program ran out of Governor's Office of Economic Development made up of professionals from within the local communities. Trained volunteers interview businesses and the BEAR assessment team reviews the interview information and identifies needs. Jim discussed the different areas of the BEAR Program – the fact that it can identify red flags for a business, the information is fed into a data base system that can assist and show needs and resources that are available as well as ways to do business better.

Richard mentioned the need for HR training for new supervisors within the individual businesses. Shirley mentioned the upcoming Innovation in Business Conference and the ABC Clinics. Marilyn suggested the Danger Zone series and the various areas it covers as well as the fact that we have been looking at making this available during a brown bag lunch for those interested. Jim mentioned the Horizons Project and Soft Skills training that will be offered for both Managers and individuals. The plan is to schedule these classes in mid January.

MSEC Update: Cal updated people on MSEC (Montana State Employers Committee) and the State Innovation in Business Conference scheduled to be held May 19, 20, & 21 2009. Scholarships are available and the deadline for these is January 31, 2009. Shirley will forward the scholarship information to all members.

Economic Summit/Career Fair: Community Management Team is partnering with the Schools to do a Career Fair/Summit for all High School Students in the Tri-County area (Anaconda, Deer Lodge & Philipsburg). Scheduled for January 28th and looking for sponsors as well as businesses that would be interested in setting up a booth. We have scheduled Devon Harris as the keynote speaker and hoping to also have him speak to the middle school students as part of his contract with us. Trying to also get Martin Bean from Microsoft but not having much luck. We have gotten some interest from an individual from Apple to speak to the students about technology.

Next Meeting: Discussed the best time and date for our next meeting and the meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 8:30 am at the Anaconda Job Service Office.